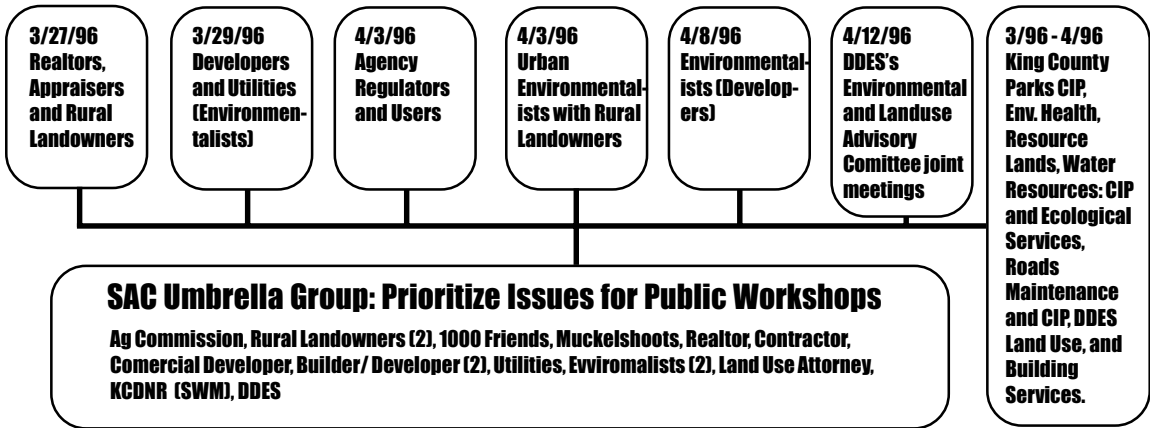
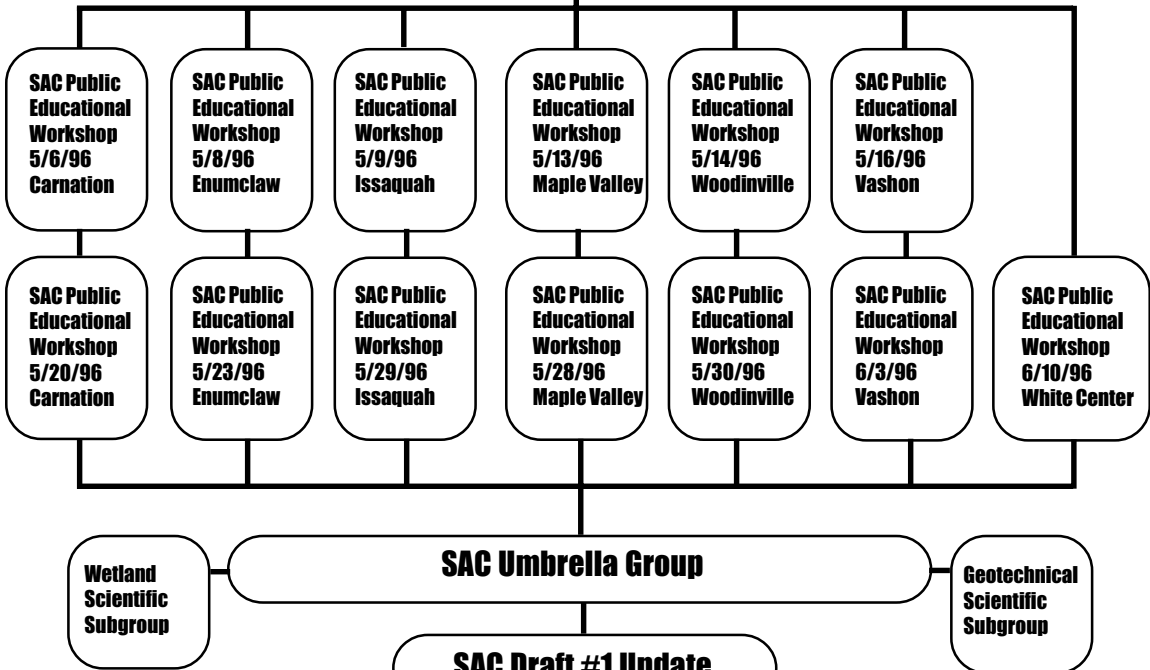


1996-1998 Sensitive Areas Code (SAC) Update - Public Process

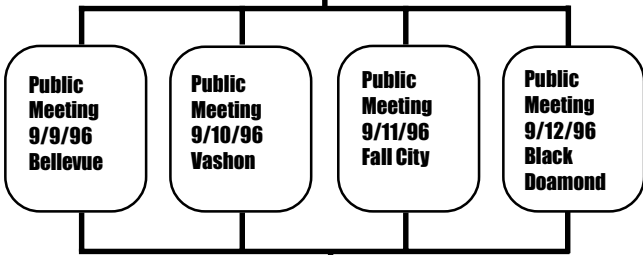
Small Discussion Groups:



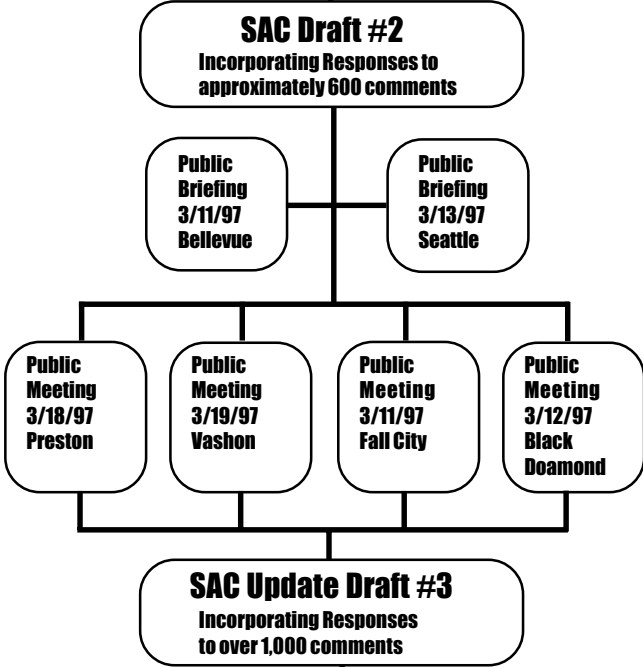
Public Workshops / Meetings:



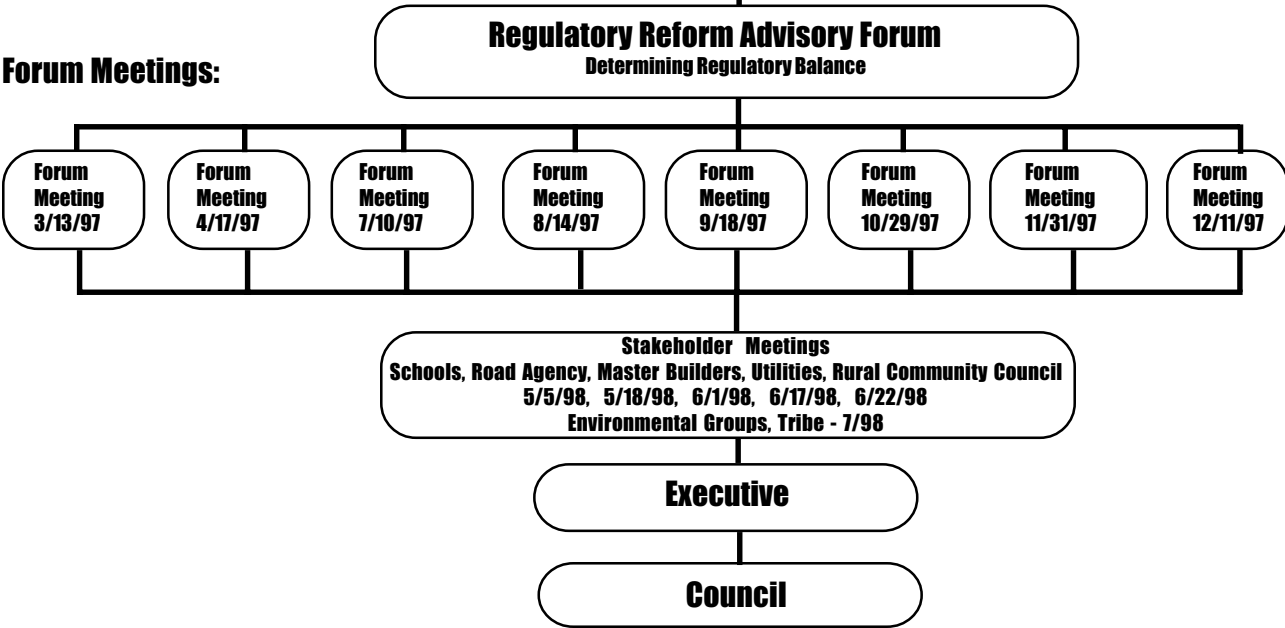
Public Meetings:



Public Briefings/ Meetings:



Forum Meetings:



1 Discussion Groups

DDES convened small discussion groups to identify what sensitive area regulation is and is not working.

2 Umbrella Group

DDES established a 16 member Umbrella Group representing a variety of interests to:

- 1) Set priorities on which issues to address;
- 2) Reach agreement on major issues when possible;
- 3) Clearly articulate the basis of disagreement when agreement was not possible.

3 Public Information Workshops/Meetings

Staff presented 10 issue papers on such topics as streams, wetlands, geologic hazard areas, PAUE. Topics such as “suggested improvements with general agreement” or “suggested improvements with controversies that need resolution” were discussed in 6 public meetings to educate citizens. These were followed by 7 public meetings where citizens presented their own concerns and/or offered solutions.

4 Scientific Subgroups / Consensus

The Umbrella Group discussed the public meeting results. The group determined that more input from the scientific community was needed to determine whether steep slopes should be developed or whether class 3 wetlands should be used for retention and detention and whether development should be allowed on some steep slopes. The group formed subgroups of wetland and geotechnical consultants to study the issues. The Umbrella Group was unable to reach a consensus on the issues, based on study results.

5 First SAC Update Draft

The first draft was mailed to over 300 participants in the discussion groups, briefings, workshops and meetings. Four public meetings and briefings for utilities, roads, SWM (CIP and Ecological Services), Master Builders, Environmental and Land Use Committees for DDES were held. Over 3,000 flyers were mailed advertising the public meetings. Meeting announcements were published in local newspapers. As a result, DDES received at least 600 more comments on the draft from the public.

6 Second SAC Update Draft

All comments received and gathered at public meetings, briefings and from written comment letters were considered and analyzed by staff. The majority of changes in the second draft were the result of comments. This draft was mailed to over 600 participants, and over 3,000 flyers announcing public meetings were mailed. Seventeen news releases went to local newspapers.

7 Third SAC Update Draft

Two public briefings and 4 public meetings were held to discuss the second draft. As a result of these meetings, mailings and news releases, over 1,000 comments were received and evaluated. Based on these comments, the third draft was completed incorporating additional changes.

8 Regulatory Reform Advisory Forum

While the third draft was being developed, the RRAF debated issues pertinent to the draft and determined whether the proposed code changes achieved the important goal of regulatory balance. The RRAF concluded that the ordinance met the goal and made recommendations to the Executive.

9 Current Status - Public Process

DDES staff met with key stake holders to discuss how DDES responded to their comments in the draft ordinance. The SEPA review process was initiated, affording further public participation. The ordinance was placed on the internet (county’s web page) for public review 6/98. Finally, the legislative process inherently involves a public process.